Financial assistance for upgrading rural hospitals

77. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance granted by WHO and World Bank for upgrading the rural hospitals in the various parts of the country during the last five years and till date;

(b) if so, the details of amount actually released, so far, for upgrading the rural hospitals in the country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Medicine for HIV/AIDS

78. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no medicine at present can cure HIV/ AIDS;

(b) whether it is also a fact that HIV/AIDS patients are mainly from slums living below poverty level and truck drivers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that anti-retro viral drugs for controlling the virus are so costly and the affected people are not in a position to purchase; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to provide medicine at cheaper rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.